

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention concerns a oligomeric MHC complex comprising at least two chimeric proteins, said chimeric proteins comprising a first section derived from an MHC peptide chain or a functional part thereof and a second section comprising an oligomerising domain derived from an oligomer-forming coiled-coil protein, wherein formation of the oligomeric MHC complex occurs by oligomerisation at the oligomerising domain of the chimeric proteins, and wherein at least two of the first sections are derived from the same MHC peptide chain. The invention also concerns a chimeric protein comprising a first section derived from an MHC peptide chain or a functional part thereof and a second section comprising an oligomerising domain derived from an oligomer-forming coiled-coil protein. The invention further concerns a method of labeling and/or detecting mammalian T cells according to the specificity of their antigen receptor, by combining an oligomeric MHC complex according to the invention and a suspension or biological sample comprising T cells, and detecting the presence of specific binding of said complex and the T cells. Finally the invention concerns primers consisting of DNA sequences for genetic engineering of the above chimeric protein.